



**COAST GUARD
MARINE SAFETY OFFICE
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Failure of Low Pressure CO₂ Firefighting System

As a result of a major engine room fire aboard a PANAMAX container vessel last summer, two lives were lost and over \$15 million dollars worth of damage occurred. The existence of a low pressure CO₂ system onboard did nothing to combat this fire despite repeated attempts by the crew to release CO₂ into the engine room. A U.S. Coast Guard formal investigation is looking into the incident, and so far has detected important operational issues regarding the installed Ginge-Kerr model T-AK(X), low pressure CO₂ fixed fire extinguishing system.

Specific issues of concern have been published in a Safety Alert that can be accessed at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/moa/docs/sa102.htm>

Applicable sectors of the Marine Industry are encouraged to review this Safety Alert and to widely disseminate its contents. Questions or comments may be addressed to Mr. Ken Olsen of the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Investigations and Analysis at 202-267-1417 or Kolsen @ comdt.uscg.mil.

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